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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application with claims 4, 5, and 8-20 being retained. Also, by this Amendment, claim 21 has been added incorporating the limitations of allowable dependent claim 7, rejected base claim 1, and rejected intervening claims 2, 3, and 6. In the Office Action, the drawings, the specification, and the claims are objected for various informalities detailed below. Regarding the merits, claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention. Also, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tower patent (U.S. No. 1,471,985). Finally, the Applicant acknowledges that claims 7-17 and 20 have been allowed and greatly appreciate the Examiner's assistance in this matter.

The Objections To The Drawings:

The drawings are objected to for not including reference numbers 32'', 38'', and 70'' as designated in the specification. The Applicant submits that each occurrence of the prime symbol (') was inadvertently duplicated in the application during the electronic filing process. For that reason, by this Amendment, the specification has been amended to replace erroneous double prime symbols (') with single prime symbols ('). It will be seen that THE reference numbers 32', 38', and 70' correspond to reference numbers 32'', 38'', and 70'', which were included in the originally filed figures.

Additionally, the drawings are also objected to for not including the living hinge element as recited in claim 5. By this Amendment, a new sheet including new Figure 9 has been added to show the living hinge.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the drawings are in an allowable condition.

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The Objections To The Specification:

The Examiner objected to the term "three" on page 3, paragraph 0033, line 1, for identifying the number of pivotal couplings described in the application when in fact only two were described. In addition, the Examiner also objected to the reference numeral "46b" as used on page 12, line 1, and the reference numeral "46c" as used on page 12, line 3 because those reference numerals should exchange places. In response, the Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestions for correcting both objections and thanks the Examiner for his assistance in this matter. Thus, the Applicant submits that the specification is in an allowable condition.

The Objections To The Claims:

Claim 18 is objected to because the phrase "of said second bracing member" should be inserted after "said channel" in line 3, and the phrase "of said first gripping portion" should be inserted after "said channel" in line 5. In response, the Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion and has clarified the subject matter recited in claim 18. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is in an allowable condition.

The § 112 Rejection:

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as his invention. Specifically, the Examiner finds the following language of claim 19 unclear: "one of said first bracing member of said boat clamping mechanism and said second gripping portion of said flashlight clamping mechanism includes a reinforcement washer integrated thereon for engaging said knob." The Examiner referred to Figure 3 and stated that the washer is integrated between the second bracing member of the boat clamping mechanism and the first gripping portion of the flashlight clamping mechanism. By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 19 to recite

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the washer as shown in Figure 3 and as described by the Examiner. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 19 is allowable and wishes to thank the Examiner for his assistance.

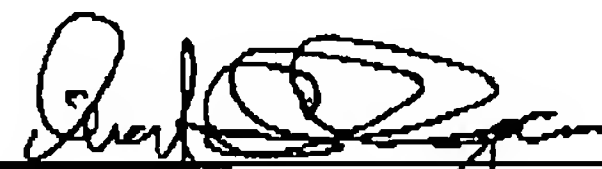
The § 103(a) Rejection:

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tower patent (U.S. No. 1,471,985). However, by this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6, and 7 have been cancelled, and claim 21 has been added including the limitations of allowable dependent claim 7, rejected base claim 1, and rejected intervening claims 2, 3, and 6. Also, claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 21.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant submits that all claims remaining in the case, namely claims 4, 5, and 8-21, are allowable. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500, if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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